



Photo illustration by Angela Elbern

Military gets special Bodog treat

Celebrities come out to salute Hawaii based troops

By Christina Failma
Staff Writer

This past weekend, 8,000 military personnel and their family members were in for a big surprise - a free concert supporting the troops.

The concert was a unique mix of comedians, actors,

and singers all coming together at the Waikiki Shell.

Fans were let in at 6 p.m. and were given special Bodog.net hats at the door. After fans were settled, opening act Wanda Sykes got the crowd going with her humorous retelling of growing up as a military child. Following her was Colin Quinn with stories of his recent trip to Iraq and Paul Rodriguez who slipped in a few words about his take on the military.

The stage was then set for Canadian musician Biff Naked who got the crowd going with her edgy rock music. During Biff Naked's performance, a special appearance was made by Dog the Bounty Hunter.

The last act was headliner Snoop Dogg. Clad in a "Support our Troops" jersey, he entertained the audience with an hour long performance. His

playlist included old and new tracks such as "Nothin' but a G Thang," "Beautiful," and "Drop it Like its Hot." The crowd sang along until 9:30 p.m.

"It's a beautiful feeling to be appreciated and come out and give the troops something to smile about and something to dance to," said Snoop Dogg. "I'm down to do it again whenever, however, forever, all the time."

After the concert, fans left the Waikiki Shell and were given red Bodog.net bags filled with various goodies to remember the evening.

"I like the fact we have people from sports, music, and actors. This is a multi-faceted event that has something for everyone," said Staff Sgt. Brian Brown from the Pacific Air Command Air Force Computer Systems Squadron.



Photo by Angela Elbern

Captain Matthew Mountcastle, Pacific Air Forces, keeps an eye on the cards and the rest of the players at the table during Bodog "Salute to the Troops" poker tourney Saturday. He and 10 other Air Force members competed against Navy, Marine, Army and celebrities to help raise money for the Fisher House Foundation. Bodog productions presented a check for \$50,000 toward the foundation.

\$50K goes to Fisher House

By Capt. Patricia Terran-Matthews
15th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Several Team Hickam Airmen participated in an all-Service charity poker tournament Friday, as part of a two-day multi-event program, the Bodog Salutes the Troops: A Tribute to American Heroes, held in appreciation to the military currently serving in Hawaii.

Our Airmen played side-by-side with personalities such as MTV favorite, Carson Daly who commented about our armed forces before heading to the tournament, "I am incredibly supportive of our military ... we don't get enough chances to say 'thanks' for your service."

Bodog donated \$50,000 to Fisher House, a foundation that donates "comfort homes," built on the ground of major military and VA medical centers.

These homes enable family members to stay near their loved one during hospitalization for an illness, disease or injury. Proceeds from other charity events will also be sent to Fisher House.

Master Sergeant Raul Pira, a seasoned

poker pro shared how he got ready for the tournament. He prepared by practicing at online poker sites and reading a couple gaming books to get a few final tips that would edge out the "celebs" and more importantly, the other military services. It was all in the name of friendly competition.

"A good player observes the table and attitudes, You can't win by luck alone," said Sergeant Pira.

His skill and strategy were solid alternating from conservative to heavy betting and making those "all in, hold-your-breath moves," But at the second to last table after four hours of playing, the cards weren't in his favor.

However, from the original 11 Air Force participants, Sergeant Pira was the last Airmen standing.

At the end of the night, it didn't matter whether our Airmen were the last ones standing at the final table among the celebrities and other service members; the "winners" were undoubtedly our military members, their families and those who have and will benefit from Fisher House Foundation.



Photo by Angela Elbern

More than 8,000 Hawaii based military members and their families were entertained by comedians Wanda Sykes, Colin Quinn and Paul Rodriguez. Also musical performances were provided by Biff Naked and Snoop Dogg.



Photo by Angela Elbern

Raul Pira tosses in a chip during the poker tourney. Pira was the last Air Force to go out.

AT THE MOVIES

Memorial Theater 449-2239 • CLOSED Monday and Tuesday

Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.

BATMAN BEGINS – In the wake of his parent's murder, disillusioned industrial heir Bruce travels the world seeking the means to fight injustice and turn fear against those who prey on the fearful. He returns to Gotham and unveils his alter-ego: Batman, a masked crusader who uses his strength, intellect and an array of high tech deceptions to fight the sinister forces that threaten the city. Starring Christian Bale and Ken Watanabe. Rated PG-13 (intense action violence, disturbing images and some thematic elements).

Sunday at 2 p.m. and Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

THE PERFECT MAN – Holly conceives the perfect plan for the perfect man-an imaginary secret admirer who will romance her mother Jean and boost her shaky self-esteem. When the virtual relationship takes off, Holly finds herself having to produce the suitor, borrowing her friend's charming and handsome Uncle Ben as the face behind the e-mails, notes and gifts. Holly must resort to increasingly desperate measures to keep the ruse alive and protect her mom's new-found happiness, almost missing the real perfect man when he does come along. Starring Hillary Duff and Heather Locklear. Rated PG (some mildly suggestive content).

Sunday and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

LAND OF THE DEAD – In a modern-day world where the walking dead roam, the living try to lead “normal” lives behind the walls of a fortified city. Outside the city walls, an army of the dead is evolving. Inside, anarchy is on the rise. With the very survival of the city at stake, a group of hardened mercenaries is called into action to protect the living from an army of the dead. Starring Simon Baker and Asia Argento. Rateed R (pervasive strong violence and gore, language, brief sexuality and some drug use).

By **1st Lt. Tony Wickman**
Alaskan Command
Public Affairs

ACROSS

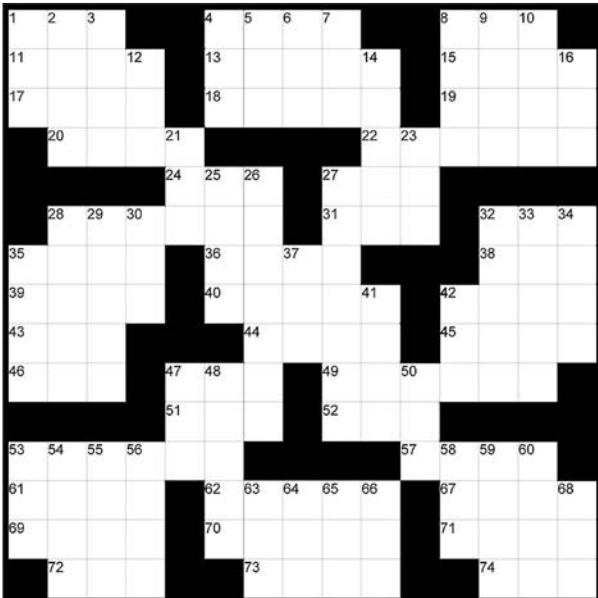
1. Fed. cryptology org.
4. RQ-3A ____ Star
8. MCI competitor
11. Drills
13. Hurt
15. Disturbances
17. Southwest monster
18. Actress Sharon
19. Tennis player Kournikova
20. X-25 ____copter
22. X-35 ____ Wing
24. To the rear of a ship
27. Critical
28. Bravo!
31. Before, poetically
32. Obese
35. Animated
36. Driving crimes, in short
38. ____ Jima
39. Terminates
40. Tantrums
42. Skin mark
43. Exist
44. Ominous
45. Starboard alternative
46. Norse god of war
47. In debt
49. Assignment
51. Address for male officer

Crossword Puzzle: X-Planes

52. Confederate general
53. XF-85
57. Open slightly
61. Opera highlight
62. XP-59 Aira____
67. Epochs
69. Mil. travel org.
70. Swashbuckling Flynn
71. Scarlett's home
72. Mil. pay statement
73. Actress Gershon
74. Wager

DOWN

1. Bother
2. Take a drink
3. Partner
4. ____ Boot
5. Dramatize
6. Greek letter
7. Barbie's pal
8. Gone
9. Nobel Prize writer Morrison
10. Southern state, in brief
12. Recovery of downed airman, in brief
14. Delay
16. Droop
21. Paddle
23. Detergent
25. Crazes
26. XF-91 ____ceptor
27. XV-6A
28. XH-20 Little ____
29. Command
30. USAF commissioning



- source
32. YRF-84F
33. Confer, as a prize
34. Felony
35. ____ moss; fertilizer
37. 3 to Caesar
41. USAF aircrew survival school
42. Resort
47. USAF crime investigation org.
48. Grimace
50. Actor Stephen
53. Fuel

54. Vocal
55. Chomp
56. SE Asia country
58. X-13 Verti____
59. Middle East denizen
60. Scarce
63. URL ender
64. Medical scan, in brief
65. Long time
66. Mil. pay during PCS
68. Took a seat

See **SOLUTION, B4**

Team Hickam History: The Air Force’s most historic airfield

Aug. 4, 1914: Battery Selfridge is completed at Fort Kamehameha, with two 12-inch disappearing guns installed and officially turned over to the Coastal Artillery.

Aug. 1, 1946: Hawaiian Air Materiel Area (HAWA-MA) became the official designation for the former Hawaiian Air Depot at Hickam Field Army Air Base.

Aug. 1, 1958: The U.S. conducted its first rocket-launched nuclear test, choosing Johnston Island as the

launch site. Code-named Teak Redstone, a live W-39 nuclear warhead was launched to measure the effects of high altitude nuclear explosions in order to design warheads for the Nike-Zeus anti-ballistic missile system. Failure of the tilt program device at lift-off caused a vertical night flight but did not prevent subsequent system operations and a successful mission. The Redstone rocket carried the 3.8 megaton warhead to an altitude of 77.8km (48.3 miles).

July 31, 1963: Retirement ceremonies for General Emmett O'Donnell, Jr., Command in Chief, PACAF, held on the Hickam mall, included a parade and a fly-by of 44 aircraft (C-118s, C-124s, a C-135, F-100s, F-101s, and F-105s).

Aug. 2 1965: Members of the 11th Bomb Group Association dedicated a tablet commemorating the 475 members lost during World War II. The tablet was placed by the flagpole on Vickers Avenue at Hickam.

Aug. 1, 1967: The 535th Troop Carrier Squadron is redesignated as the 535th Tactical Airlift Squadron.

July 29, 1975: The first two military working dogs assigned to Hickam AFB arrived from Kadena AB, Japan, and stayed in the State Quarantine facility pending completion of a mandatory 120-day quarantine period and establishment of a permanent facility on Hickam AFB.

July 29, 1993: The U.S.

Army Central Identification Laboratory (located in the Fort Kamehameha district) hosted a rededication ceremony for the Fort Kamehameha Chapel. Although plans at one time called for demolishing the 50-year-old Chapel, 15th Air Base Wing Commander Colonel William Van Meter agreed with the State Historic Preservation Office to preserve the Chapel. After the \$208,854 renovation (funded by the Army and SHPO), CILHI staff moved into the Chapel to use it as office space.

July 30, 2003: The 15 AW conducted a major accident response evaluation to ensure Hickam was prepared to host “Friends and Neighbors Weekend” scheduled for 9-10 August 2003.

Aug. 2, 2002: On Johnston Atoll, the U.S. Army Chemical Activity, Pacific (USACAP) cased its colors, culminating three decades of safely storing, securing, transporting, and accounting for chemical weapons.

Airmen support Soldiers, Marines

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Munsey
379th Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFP) — Soldiers and Marines can thank a team of blue-suited warriors at this forward-deployed location for helping put new armor on vehicles they use to battle insurgents.

Airmen of the 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron are on a 24-hour treadmill, racing to provide life-saving and force-protection equipment to customers they'll never see.

Since July 18, the Airmen have been loading C-17 Globemaster IIIs full of more dent-resistant Humvees and pallet after pallet of up-armor kits for vehicles already in use in the theater, said Capt. Steve Nelson, the squadron's operations officer.

"We're a vital link in the war on terrorism," Captain Nelson said. "The trigger pullers in the field need this equipment to thwart the capabilities of the enemy."

With an already-limited availability, the squadron's portion of the ramp has become more crowded than a department store's parking lot on Christmas Eve.

"We're staging up to seven aircraft on an area of the parking ramp that was originally designed for only three aircraft," Captain Nelson said.

It is congestion born of

necessity, said Army Lt. Col. John Tkach, of the U.S. Central Command's distribution and deployment operations center sustainment cell.

A number of kits had become backlogged state-side, he said.

A decision was made to airlift the kits and up-armored Humvees. This most recent, on-going mission delivered 275 kits "up north" for installation.

The bottom line for the squadron's Airmen — who commonly refer to themselves as the "Mighty 8th" — is as simple as it is far reaching, Colonel Tkach said.

"They're saving Soldier's lives," he said.

Adding this key mission to the squadron's daily itinerary — including passenger and asset movement and airplane repair and reconstitution — means everyone pitches in, including Staff Sgt. Naomi Groom, a passenger terminal representative.

After her duty day was long over, Sergeant Groom was still in the staging area July 19 adding personal-commitment fuel to the pallet-packaging frenzy.

"They need to get down-range," she said.

If Sergeant Groom refers to the Marines and Soldiers in a more familiar manner, it is understandable. She has helped innumerable sister-service brethren who come through this

Southwest Asia base's passenger terminal for a four-day rest and recuperation visit.

"It's a great feeling knowing we can get them out of the fight, even for a few days," she said.

Even without the high-profile up-armor kit mission, the squadron's Airmen have plenty of requirements to occupy their time, said Capt. Mike Lee, the squadron's aerial port flight commander.

"We've (brought) more than 80,000 pounds of blood to wounded Soldiers on the frontline," Captain Lee said. "In two-and-a-half months, more than 58,000 passengers and 24,825 short tons of cargo and ammunition have moved through the (squadron).

"That's the entire populace of Dover, Del., and the weight of almost 137 C-5 (Galaxy aircraft)," he said.

Deftly handling the daily mission while simultaneously fulfilling the high-visibility up-armor project is another proverbial feather in the unit's cap, according to their squadron commander.

"What has amazed me is the incredible mission focus and teamwork," said Lt. Col. Douglas Engelke. "We were given 25 days to complete the up-armor kits based on manning and workload, but we'll have it done in five days.

"Needless to say, I'm proud to be a part of the 'Mighty 8th,'" he said.



(photo by Airman 1st Class Desiree Hayden)

(From left) Staff Sgt. Naomi Groom, Tech. Sgt. Mason McGill and Master Sgt. Antonio Brock secure the latest in the series of 275 up-armor kit pallets July 19 scheduled for shipment to forward-deployed Soldiers and Marines on July 19. Working around-the-clock at a forward-deployed location, 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron Airmen expect to complete shipment of all pallets in five days.

Tina Smith
15th Mission Support Squadron



Staff Sgt . Afryea Horton
15th Logistics Readiness Squadron

15th MSS rocks

because: Because we put the “Mission” first and people are our mission! And the people in our squadron are all awesome ... despite various manning limitations, everyone makes the utmost effort to provide the best service we can to our customers.

My job affects all of Hickam in that: every military member our MPF services (5,000+) and their family members have some kind of contact with the section I supervise. Everything we do affects a member's career and/or benefits — ID cards, evaluations, promotions, testing, retention, casualty assistance, etc. Plus I get to give the “Malihini” briefing to all new arrivals and their families at our Ohana Aloha Newcomers' Orientation. Hopefully I give them a positive introduction to Hawaii and help fuel their excitement about being stationed here.

When not at work, I spend my off duty time: thinking about all of the work that's waiting for my return! (Just kidding!) Usually, I'm just enjoying living in Hawaii. I like to stay active, working out, playing sports, going to the beach or movies. There's always something to do.

What her supervisor says: “She’s awesome! She’s a very hard worker who is willing to sacrifice her time to help others. Tina always does her job with enthusiasm. She’s basically the Aloha club.”

Capt. Nicholl Dial
Military Personnel Flight commander



15th LRS rocks

because: When we get together as a team to support a cause, everyone really bands together to make it happen with great success! We recently donated more than 100 pounds of Hawaiian goodies to a deployed unit at Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan.

My job affects all of Hickam in that: We are the wing OPR for deployment planning, training and execution. We manage squadron-level contingency support requirements and provide deployment training for all installation personnel to carry out deployment tasks.

When not at work, I spend my off duty time: Enjoying my part-time Mary Kay hobby.

Something people don't know about the 15th Logistics Readiness Squadron: 15 LRS just celebrated 1 year as a squadron in June. Previously, we were the 15th Logistics Readiness Division.

If I could change one thing about Hickam, it would be: Nothing since I have no problem with parking in the mornings.

What her supervisor says: "She goes above and beyond. It's the special touches and caring that makes her different."



Master Sgt. Michael Branco
Superintendent of installation readiness flight

SOLUTIONS, From B2



CHAPEL

Editor's note: For more information on Base Chapel services or for prayer requests call the Chapel Center at 449-1754 or Nelles Chapel at 449-6562.

PROTESTANT

Nelles Chapel
Sunday Contemporary
Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday Gospel Worship
11:15 a.m.
Sunday Praise Gathering
5:30 p.m.
Chapel Center
Sunday Traditional
8:30 a.m.

JEWISH

Aloha Jewish Chapel,
Pearl Harbor
473-0050
Jewish Lay Leader
Mr. David Bender
527-5877
Naval Station Chapel
473-3971

CATHOLIC

Nelles Chapel
Weekday Mass
11:30 a.m.
Saturday Confessions
4:15 p.m.
Saturday Mass 5 p.m.
Chapel Center
Sunday Mass 10 a.m.

ISLAMIC

Friday Congregational
Service
(1935 Aleo Place,
Punahou)
1 p.m.
Muslim Association
of Hawaii
947-6263

BUDDHIST

Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii
Betsuin A Shin
Buddhist Temple
536-7044

ORTHODOX

For more information,
call 438-6687

Sports Shorts

Youth football and cheerleading registration

All participants need a current physical (within 1 year) and birth certificate. Cost is \$50 for football and \$65 for cheerleading. Participants eligible are birth years 1989 to 2000. Practice begins Sept. 5. Coaches training will be held at the Community Center Aug. 27 at 9 a.m. Parents Meeting at Kidsports Aug. 27 — 5 p.m. - Mini Mites; 5:30 p.m. - Mitey Mites and Termites; 6 p.m. - Pee Wees and Midgets. Volunteer coaches are needed for both, contact Youth Sports 448-4492 if interested.

Youth baseball registration

Fall Baseball registration is going on and runs through Aug. 12. Need current physical (within 1 year) and birth certificate. Participants eligible are birth years 1989 to 2000. Fee is \$50 per player. Practice will begin Sept. 5 and season will run from Oct. 1 to Nov. 30. Coaches are needed for Fall baseball, football and cheerleading.

Golf tournament

The Pacific Air Forces Regional Supply Squadron is hosting a golf tournament Today. Cost includes green fees, cart and prizes. E-1 through E-4 and GS-1 through GS-3, \$30. E-5 through O-3 and GS-4 through GS-8, \$40. O-4 and above, civilians and other DOD members, \$45. To sign up, send an email to brian.townsend@hickam.af.mil or toney.richey@hickam.af.mil. For more information call 449-7777 or 449-7781.

Running club

Hickam Fitness and Sports Center is recruiting runners of all levels to begin a running club. Advanced participants are needed as volunteers, all levels are welcome. Monthly discussions will occur including speed work, race etiquette, massage, nutrition, yoga for runners and more. For more information, contact Susanne Dale at 449-1044.

Hickam Swim Team

The Hickam Hurricanes program is dedicated to providing children an all-around competitive swimming program. Hickam Hurricanes swimmers are taught the correct swimming fundamentals and stroke mechanics for all four competitive strokes, competition starts and turns, and techniques to become more proficient competitive swimmers. Swimmers are placed in one of three groups according to ability, and progress through the levels through testing and the coach's discretion. For more information, check out the Hickam Hurricanes' Web site at <http://www.hickamhurricanes.com/>.

56 Council, Chiefs go X-tra innings in inaugural True Blue Softball Tournament



By Kirsten Tacker
Kukini Photojournalist

At Hickam's Inaugural True Blue Softball Tournament competition sizzled all day long amongst ranks, right up till the final heart pounding moment. Ultimately in the 11th inning, Middle-of-the-Pack (56 Council) fractured the never-ending tie against Triple "G" Force (Chiefs) for the championship. Middle-of-the-Pack's Brian Brewer stepped into the batter's box, swung and legged out an inside-the-park home run for a final score of 15-14. Friday's tournament traditionally was an annual match between the Chiefs and the Eagles, but this year it became a battle against the ranks. "We tend to take care of the base and not have fun. We try to have some fun and build teams between councilmen," shared Chief Master Sgt. Paul Lewis. There were five different slow pitch teams who came out for some fun, Middle-of-the-Pack (56 Council), Triple "G" Force (Chiefs), One Strike Short (Top 3), Diamond Backs (1st Sgt's), Young Guns (Airmen), and The O's Have it (Officers). The tournament jolted off with the Middle-of-the-Pack marking their territory fast and hard, against their opponents the Young Guns. The Airmen made it close at the end then to

shake it up Maurice "Big Mo" Whitlock engulfed the ball for a home run in the third inning, final score 7-6. Triple "G" Force dominated their second round game against the Diamond Backs 13-1. Diamond Back's left fielder Ron Schoolcraft who missed a play with an incredibly grave effort later shared, "We're not here for the win, we got our butts beat. We're here for the fun - we're already winners." Winners in round three, Young Gun's Richard Jordan looked for his target and completed his mission for one of the few steals in the tournament. Young Guns went on to beat the Diamond Backs 6-5. A solid play by Triple "G" Force's third baseman, Rod McKinley, and a soaring ball for a home run by Rocky Cheadle, contributed to a final score of 8-4 against the first meeting with the Middle-of-the-Pack. Triple "G" Force might have seized Middle-of-the-Pack this time, but the battle wouldn't end there. Going into the fifth round, One Strike Short had a shot at making the championship round if they beat Triple "G" Force. One Strike Short's shortstop, Joe Thompson eager for the win stretched hard to make an out at second base with the contorted legs of a first baseman. Enthusiastic from Thompson's play his coach

proclaimed, "We will not lose to the Chiefs [Triple "G" Force], flat out we will not," but they did. With an arsenal of batters and fielded hand grenades the war waged for the championship game played out like a perfect Hollywood script. Both teams trenched out four extra innings to fight for the win after Middle-of-the-Pack already won according to the tournament bi-laws set for the seven inning match up. Middle-of-the-Pack preferred to take their win on the field and risk losing everything. Sixth inning score 11-11, seventh inning 12-12 and this is how it continues inning after inning. Triple "G" Force's coach Dave Sousa told his team, "Either they are going to wear us out or we are going to wear them out." In the top of the 10th inning with Chief's on the field in tie game, with only one out, Pitcher Lewis intentionally walked two batters to load the bases. Hollywood came calling, the ball was fielded thrown to second, turned and rocketed to first making the third out. Ending the inning with a group exhale, It was a crowd pleaser, but the fat lady wasn't crooning. The tie was consistently safeguarded until the top of the 11th inning. Triple "G" Force scored and all they had to do was keep the other team from scoring and the championship was theirs. At this point the bottom of the 11th became a nail biter. Brewer marched up to the plate, bat and ball knocked together plunking an end to the tie. Afterward during the trophy ceremony Brewer elatedly yelled, "We earned it, we earned it!"

Tournament final results

	Wins	Losses
• Middle of the Pack (56 Council)	5	1
• Triple "G" Force (Chiefs)	4	2
• One Strike Short (Top 3)	3	2
• Young Guns (Airmen)	3	2
• Diamond Backs (1st Sgt's)	1	4
• The O's Have it (Officers)	0	5

Photos by Kirsten Tacker

[Top] Young Gun Danilo Sinclair takes a look to find the ball as he crosses first base while first baseman Paul Garrigan, Triple "G" Force, watches the play. [Left] Maurice "Big Mo" Whitlock, Middle-of-the-Pack, crushes a pitch during the True Blue Tournament. Big Mo cranked many home runs throughout the day helping power the 56 Council's Middle-of-the-Pack team to win the inaugural tourney. [Below] The Triple "G" Force (Chiefs) and the Young Guns (Airmen) tell each other good job after their game. The Young Guns came back after a tough first round lost to place in a tie for third with the One Strike Short (Top 3) in the tournament.





Photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Leonhard
[Above] Anthony Florentine, 324th Intelligence Squadron, Robert Brown, Pacific Air Forces and Guy Dashnea, 15th Security Forces Squardon, warm up before their race.



Hickam paddlers qualify for state

By Tech. Sgt. Andrew Leonhard
15th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

It's said amongst a team of paddlers "We live our lives one quarter mile at a time," well that 1,320 foot sprint has led six Air Force members a trip to Maui Aug. 7. As the top ranked Mixed Novice B paddling team on Oahu, an all-Air Force blue team representing the Ka Mamalahoe Canoe Club captured the Na 'Ohana O Na Hui Wa'a Championship Saturday at the Ke'ehi Lagoon. Team members: Ronelle Simmons, Pacific Air Forces; Robert Brown PACAF; Anthony Florentine, 324th Intelligence Squadron; Guy Dashnea, 15th Security

Forces Squadron; Kimberly Lee, PACAF and Merlinda Vergonio, PACAF, now will face the best of all of the Hawaiian Islands, and they look forward to the chance to lay claim as the state's best Mixed Novice B team. "Our times have been right there along with the other islands throughout the season," said Brown. "We just look forward to going there and giving it our best and see what happens." That is what the team has been doing all season, winning all but one race and running the fastest time for the division with a 1 min and 46 second dash. The mixed novice team was not the only Air Force represented team there to be heading to Maui. The club's

Men's Junior Division was also gunning for a chance to compete against the states best. Needing a top three finish to help secure their place the team of Jake Kearney, 324th IS; Roger Ponce, 15th SFS and Frank Deniz, PACAF along with three local paddlers on the Ka Mamalahoe club, didn't quite make it with a fifth place finish in their heat. However the team again formed and raced in the Junior Men's Open division against a very stacked group of teams and placed fourth to give them just enough to qualify for the state championships. "We gave it our all," said Steersman Deniz. "We even had one guy on the crew throwing up afterward

because we left nothing out there and poured all our heart and strength into it. These were the best of Oahu we were going against — it feels awesome to do this well." Also competing was Christina Hoggatt from PACAF Public Affairs Office, who was a two-time winner by competing on the Waikiki Beach Boys Canoe Club. She helped her Female Senior and Mixed Open 6 teams make their way to Maui. The outrigger canoe paddling championship will receive local and national media coverage. ESPN is said to be sending a twenty-man crew to televise the event. Look in local TV schedules to see when it will be running.



Photo by Lt. Col. Kenneth Tingman
[Left] Frank Deniz, PACAF, Roger Ponce, 15th SFS, and Jake Keaney, 32th IS, make up one half of the Junior Men's Open team who will compete in the state championships in Maui Aug. 7. [Above] The Mixed Novice B team made up of (front to back) Ronelle Simmons, PACAF; Robert Brown, PACAF; Anthony Florentine, 324th IS; Guy Dashnea, 15 SFS; Kimberly Lee, PACAF and Merlinda Vergonio, PACAF, head back to shore after winning their race at the Hui Wa'a Championships Saturday at the Ke'ehi Lagoon. The team is the top ranked Oahu Novice Mixed B team heading into the state meet.

